

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method is provided for classifying or typing a prokaryote to a class or a type. The method is effected by characterizing at least one polymorphic simple sequence repeat locus in a genome of the prokaryote and, based on a characterization of the polymorphic simple sequence repeat, classifying or typing the prokaryote to a class or a type. Compounds and articles of manufacture are provided for effecting the method.

1. A method for classifying or typing a prokaryote to a class or a type, comprising: characterizing at least one polymorphic simple sequence repeat locus in a genome of the prokaryote; and, based on a characterization of the polymorphic simple sequence repeat, classifying or typing the prokaryote to a class or a type.